

The Copie
**OF HIS MAIESTIES
COMMISSION,**

**Touching the Fees of the Officers and
Ministers belonging to the Courts of Iustice, as well
Ecclesiasticall as Temporall, within His
Maiesties Dominions of England
and Wales:**

TOGETHER

**With an order made by the Ll. and others Com-
missioners therein, touching the execution
of that Commission.**

*Published by His Maiesties expresse
Commandement.*

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cellent Maiestie.*

1623.

1865
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AMES by the
grace of GOD,
King of England,
Scotland, France
and Ireland, De-
fendour of the
Faith, &c. To
our right trusty
and right wel-

beloued Cousins and Counsellours, *Henry*
Viscount *Maundeuill*, Lord President of
Our Counsell; *James* Marquisse *Hamilton*;
Thomas Earle of *Arundell* and *Surrey*, Earle

Marshall of England; *William* Earle of
Pembroke, Lord Chamberlaine of Our
 Houshold; *James* Earle of *Carlisle*; *Oliuer*
 Viscount *Graundison*: And to Our right
 trustie and right welbeloued Counsellors,
George Lord *Carew*, Master of our Ordi-
 nance; *Fulke* Lord *Brooke*; Sir *Iohn* *Suc-*
cling Knight, Comptroller of our Hous-
 hold; Sir *George* *Caluert* Knight, one of Our
 principall Secretaries of State; Sir *Edward*
Conway Knight, one other of Our princi-
 pall Secretaries of State: And to Our tru-
 sty and welbeloued Sir *Thomas* *Wentworth*,
 Knight and Baronet, Sir *Robert* *Cotton*,
 Knight and Baronet, Sir *Randall* *Crew*
 Knight, one of Our Sergeants at Law,
 Sir *George* *More* Knight, Sir *Dudley* *Diggs*
 Knight, Sir *Thomas* *Walsingham* Knight,
 Sir *Samuell* *Sandys* Knight, Sir *Edwyn*
Sandys Knight, Sir *Henry* *Spilman* Knight,
William *Noye*, and *Edward* *Ayscogbe* Es-
 quires, Greeting. WHEREAS heretofore
 vpon Information giuen vnto Vs, that
 many of Our good and louing Subiects
 within this Our Realme haue bene and
 daily

daily were vniustly charged and griued with excessiue Fees and Payments, extor-
tiously taken, exacted and leuied by some
Attourneys, Sollicitours, Clerkes and o-
ther Officers in Our High Court of Iu-
stice, commonly holden and kept in Our
City of *Westminster*, and in other inferiour
Courts in other places of our Realme; as
also by diuers Officials, Commissaries, and
other inferiour Iudges Ecclesiasticall, and
by diuers Aduocates, Clerkes, Officers,
and Ministers within Our Courts Ecclesi-
asticall within either of the Prouinces of
Canterbury and *Yorke*, to the generall dam-
mage and oppression of Our said louing
Subiects, and contrary to the Lawes and
Statutes in that behalfe prouided, and to
the high contempt of our Regall Autho-
ritie and Prerogatiue Royall, WEE out
of our Princely and earnest care and de-
sire to doe Right and Iustice, equally and
indifferently ministred to all Our louing
Subiects with conuenient expedition,
and with as little charge and expence as
reasonably might be; And that all extor-
tions,

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tions, oppressions, corruptions and enormities whatsoeuer, practised or vsed in any of our Courts, might bee examined, tryed, and reformed, and such as should be found to haue offended therein, to be sharply and seuerely corrected and punished according to their demerits, Did by our Commission sealed with Our great Seale of England, bearing date the eight day of October in the eightyeere of Our Reigne ouer this our Realme of England, authorize diuers Commissioners therein named, to enquire and certifie what Fees were then lawfully taken, and what were vnduely extorted or taken by the Officers and Ministers of all our Courts of Iustice, both Ecclesiasticall and Temporall, within the Realme of England and Dominion of Wales, And to doe diuers other things in the said Commission expressed, tending to the good and ease of our Subiects, as hereby may appeare: And Wee now calling to minde the same Our Commission, and not finding that it produced the effect by Vs intended and desired; But being

ing informed that Our Subiects are still burthened and grieued with sundry vn-warrantable Payments, vnder colour of Fees taken in Our said Courts of Iustice, And continuing and pursuing Our former purpose, are gratically pleased, that the ancient and due Fees in all our Courts, shall be with all the conuenient speed that may be, made knowen and setled, and all new and exacted Fees, taken away or abridged, for the good of our Subiects and the ease of all Suitors in the said Courts.

Know yee therefore, That Wee, for the better discouery, & vnderstanding of the truth in the premisses, and effecting this our Pleasure; and reposing assured trust and confidence in your fidelities, discretions and integrities, Haue authorised you to be our Commissioners: And We doe hereby giue power and authoritie vnto you, or any foure or more of you, to make a diligent and particular Suruey Search and enquiry, what Fees, Rewards, Dueties and summes of money were in, or before the thirtieth yeere of the Reigne

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of

of the late Queene ELIZABETH, vsually or accustomably taken, receiued, or had, by the Iudges, Counsellers, Practisers, Officers, Ministers, Clerkes, Registers, or Attourneys, in any of the Courts of Starre Chamber, Chancerie, Kings Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, Exchequer Chamber, and Receipt of Exchequer, Court of Wards and Liueries, Court of Requests, Courts holden and kept before the Counsell established in the Marches of *Wales*, or in the North parts; Courts holden within the Counties Palatine of *Chester*, *Lancaster*, and *Durham*; Courts holden before the Iustices of Assise, *Nisi Prius*, Oyer and Terminer, and Gaole deli-uery, or before Iustices of Peace; And generally in all and euery other Temporal Court and Courts whatsoeuer within this our Realme of *England*, or Dominion or Principallitie of *Wales*.

And also, what Fees, Duties, and Sums of money were in or before the thirtieth yeere of the Reigne of the said late Queen, vsually or accustomably taken by any Ordinaries,

dinaries, Commissaries, Iudges, Commis-
sioners, Officials, Aduocates, Practisers,
Proctors, Registers, or other Officers,
Ministers, or Clerkes in any the Courts
of High Commission, or other Ecclesia-
sticall Courts whatsoeuer, within the said
Realme, Dominion, or Principality, aswel
within the Prouince of *Canterburie*, as
within the Prouince of *Yorke*: And to in-
forme your selues, aswell by examination
of any person or persons, and by view of
any Rolles, Bookes, Orders, Priuie Seales,
Certificates, and other Records, *Memoran-*
dums, and things whatsoeuer; As by any
other good wayes, and meanes which to
you, or any foure, or more of you, shall be
thought conuenient, what Fees, rewards,
Sum and Sums of money, sithence the
said Thirtieth yeere of the Reigne of the
said late *Queene*, haue been set, imposed,
raised, aduanced, increased, incroached, or
taken in any the said Courts Ecclesiasticall
or Temporal, & of the grounds or reasons
thereof, with all other necessary incidents

and circumstances touching the premisses.

And for your better helpe in the discovery and knowledge of the truth in the same, We do hereby authorise you, or any foure, or more of you, to call before you, or any foure, or more of you, such Officers, Ministers, Attourneys, Clerkes, or other person or persons, as you in your wisdomes shall thinke meete, by whom you may bee informed of any the particulars herein mentioned.

And for your more exact and perfect proceedings in the prosecution of this our pleasure, Wee doe further by these presents giue power and authoritie vnto you, or any foure or more of you, whereof some of you the said *Lord President* of our Councell, *Marquis Hamilton*, *Earle Marshall*, *Lord Chamberlaine*, *Earle of Carlisle*, *Viscount Grandison*, *Lord Carew*, *Lord Brooke*, *Sir Iohn Suckling*, *Sir George Caluert*, and *Sir Edward Conway*, to bee two, to examine upon oath, or without oath, all such person and persons as you shall thinke fit,
by

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by whom the trueth in the premisses may more plainly appeare, or be more fully and truely reuealed and discouered.

And Wee doe hereby giue full power and authoritie vnto you, Our said Commissioners, or any foure or more of you to cause all and euery Our officers and Ministers, and all others whom you shall thinke meete, to bring and shew before you, or any foure or more of you, all and singular such Rolles, Warrants, Records, Orders, Tables, Bookes, Entries, or other Notes or Writings whatsoeuer, remaining in their, or any of their custodie, which you, or any foure or more of you shall thinke fit to bee produced, whereby the trueth in the premisses may bee the better found out and discouered.

And Our further will and pleasure is; And Wee doe hereby commaund, that you, or foure, or more of you, whereof some of you the said *Lord President* of our Counsell, *Marquis Hamilton*, *Earle Marshall*, *Lord Chamberlaine*, *Earle of Carlisle*, *Vicount Grandison*, *Lord Carew*, *Lord*

Brooke, Sir Iohn Suckling, Sir George Caluert,
 and Sir Edward Conway to bee two, doe
 from time to time certifie your proceed-
 ings vpon this our Commission vnto the
 Lords, and others of our Priuie Counsell
 at the Counsell Board; and especially in
 such your certificate vpon good conside-
 ration had of the premisses, to expresse
 your opinions, what Fees, allowances,
 and payments are fit to stand, and bee
 continued and allowed for the good of
 our Subiects, and which of them are
 meete to be taken away or abridged, to
 the end Wee may with their aduice giue
 further direction for the settling of the
 sayd Fees, for the ease of Our sayd Sub-
 iects, and take away the former abuses
 and exactions by which they haue had
 much preiudice: Willing and requiring
 you Our said Commissioners diligently
 and speedily to attend the execution of
 this Our Commission, being a seruice of
 most high and weighty consequence;
 And these presents, or the inrollment
 therof, shall be vnto you and euery of you
 a suf-

a sufficient Warrant and discharge for doing and executing the premisses accordingly.

And lastly, Our will and pleasure is, that this Our Commission shall continue in force, and that you Our said Commissioners, or such foure or more of you respectively, as aforesaid, shall and may from time to time proceede in the execution of the same, and of euery matter and thing therein contained, although the same bee not from time to time continued by adiournement. In witnesse whereof We haue caused these Our Letters to be made Patents.

Witnesse Our selfe at Westminster the eighth day of March, in the twentieth yeere of our Reigne of *England, France and Ireland*, and of *Scotland* the fixe and fiftieth.

Per Breue de prinato Sigillo.

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*At White-Hall the twenty fourth
of May. 1623.*

HIS MAIESTIE being informed by diuers of his louing Subiects, and such as are, or haue been Suitors in his Maiesties Courts of Iustice, that they haue beene burthened and griued with sundry vnwarrantable payments demanded and taken (vnder colour of Fees) in the said Courts of Iustice; and being graciously pleased for the ease and comfort of all Suitors, that the Ancient and due Fees in all Courts be known, and settled, and that all new and exacted Fees should bee taken away or abridged, hath to that purpose graunted forth a Commission vnder his great Seale of England, directed to the Lord *President* of his Priuy Counsell, the Lord *Marquisse Hamilton*, the Earle *Marshall*, the Lord *Chamber-*
C *laine*,

laine, the Earle of *Carlisle*, and others of his Highnesse Priuy Counsell, together with some principall Gentlemen of abilitie and experience, all nominated in the said Commission. This day diuers of their Lordships &c. were assembled in the Counsell Chamber at White-Hall, and there sate vpon the said Commission, where calling before them sundry principall Officers, belonging to euery his Maiesties Courts in Westminster, they did expressely will and require them, aswell to take knowledge themselues, as to impart the same to euery particular Officer and Minister, in each Court where they serue, That they all forthwith should conferre together, and doe their best indeauours, to informe themselues, what were the ancient and due Fees, vsually and accustomably taken, by any the Iudges, Counsellors at Law, Officers or Ministers whatsoeuer, seruing or practising in any the foresaid Courts of Westminster, in the thirtieth yeere of the Raigne of the late Queene

Eliza.

Elizabeth, or at any time before; As likewise what Fees haue beene at any time since the said 30. *Eliz.* or are at this present, taken and demanded, by any the Iudges, Counsellors, Officers, and Ministers whatsoever, seruing or practising in any the foresaid Courts. And that therevpon they make a true and exact Certificate in writing vnder their hands, to be deliuered in, to their Lordships, &c. by the first day of the next Tearme: which order of their Lordships, &c. is to be vnderstood, not onely of the foresaid Courts of Westminster; but is likewise to be extended to the Presideall Courts established within the Marches of Wales, and in the North parts, Counties Palatine of Chester, Lancaster, Durham, Courts holden before Iustices of Assize, *Nisi prius*, *Oyer*, and *Terminer*, Gaole deliuerie, or before Iustices of Peace, and generally to all other Temporall Courts whatsoever, within his Maiesties Realme of England, and the Principallitie of Wales; And is likewise to be extended

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tended to all Ecclesiasticall Courts what.
soever, within the said Realme of Eng-
land, and Principalitie of Wales. And
the Officers and Ministers of all and euery
the said Courts, aswell Ecclesiasticall as
Temporall, are hereby expressly ordered
and required, to obserue and performe in
all points, the direction aboue mentio-
ned, and giuen to the foresaid Courts of
Westminster: Of which order likewise all
and euery the foresaid Courts, are foorth-
with to take notice, and may haue Copies
thereof from the Clerke of
the Counsell.



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MAIESTIE.

M.DC.XXIII.

